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- Premier Salazar (70) in failing health and regime supporters are I. increasingly convinced he has outlived his usefulness and should retire.
  - Security police greatly concerned over situation, involving widespread popular discontent with politico-social restrictions, and economic stagnation and growing disaffection among military.
    - Coup planned against regime for 12 March was thwarted at 25X1X last minute.
  - revolution B. in Portugal quite possible and could topple regime.
  - A successful revolt in Portugal would have repercussions in Spain and could eventually threaten Franco's position. 25X1X
- told US naval attache 26 II. March he felt he would be obliged "within the next 12 months or sooner" to advise Salazar to step down.
- he alone was strong enough to hold country together 25X1X and he had complete support from military high command.
  - III. A military junta not likely to satisfy opposition groups, such as National Independent Movement (MNI), which want far-reaching reforms.
    - MNI head General Humberto Delgado, presidential candidate in June 1958, now in asylum in Brazilian embassy Lisbon.
    - Some Communist infiltration of MNI has been reported.
  - None of the possible military successors to Salazar would be likely to change Portugal's pro-Western orientation but they would probably demand economic aid in return for continued US use of Azores ba segroved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001100040016